

**DAN S. LEHON**, Sworn for the State. (By deposition) My position is that of Manager of the Southern Division of the William J. Burns National Detective Agency with headquarters in New Orleans. I have been here on the Frank or Mary Phagan case for the past four or five weeks/I cannot recall just when I came here. Occasionally we call Mr. Burns "Governor". Mr. Burns came a few days before I arrived. I take charge of the work in general, nothing in particular. I did everything that came to me I thought was necessary to have to do in this matter. As to what I am paid in connection with my work in this Frank business, it doesn't make a particle of difference to me as to my compensation, I am paid a salary by Mr. Burns and this case has absolutely no bearing on my salary. I am not interested in the retained Mr. Burns receives. I am interested in the money Mr. Burns pays this agency here in Atlanta the same as any other employee would be in any concern or firm. I have no interest at all personally in the money that is received from Frank or his friends and paid to Mr. Burns or the Burns' Agency. I have been paid on account of the agency, some monies from our client. Yes, I have signed and receipted for the monies that have been paid for the services of Burns and myself and his agents here. I have not handled all of it. I don't know who has handled others. We got the money from Mr. Herbert J. Haas, of counsel for the defense. I can not recollect how much money we got from Haas at the time Ragsdale made his affidavit. I don't recollect whether or not I got any money from Haas at that time. Immediately previous I got five hundred dollars by check. I did not talk with Haas about the Ragsdale affidavit when I got this money. I recollect previously mentioning something about an affidavit that was to be made by a preacher and I never knew Ragsdale's name until the day he made the affidavit. As to my knowing my subordinates or the subordinates of the Burns' Agency, or Burns himself had been in touch with a preacher, I had heard there was a preacher from one of our operatives named Whitfield, the same man who used to work with Pinkertons under Pierce. I heard it from Rogers, a witness for the State. I also heard it from C.C. Tedder, also in my employ. I employed and paid Tedder. I advanced Tedder at the time that I employed him, which I think was the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of April, a month's salary, Two hundred and fifty dollars. I also advanced him \$250.00 for expenses of making a trip to interview some witnesses that he told me were living in Birmingham, or Chattanooga, or Nashville. One of the witnesses he told me was a prostitute in a house of prostitution at either Chattanooga, or Birmingham, who had information would swear to Frank being a pervert and I instructed him to go and get this information by all means; and he also informed me at the same time that he had a very important witness in the person of Mark Wilson, a negro, who would testify that he saw James Conley buy a lunch from Mary Rih, the negress near the pencil factory on the day of the murder and that Wilson would also state that he saw Conley going back to the pencil factory, in the alley and coming out of the alley. He also told me there was another witness named Hodge, a negro, who could verify and support or corroborate the statement of Mark Wilson, and it was for that purpose I gave this money to Tedder to defray his expenses and he explained to me he was broke and needed money and asked me to advance him a month's salary, which I did. At the time I advanced this \$250.00 I had never heard of the preacher. I do not know a man by the name of Petrie. If he is working for the Burns' agency, I don't know it. I don't know anything about him. I never heard of the name Petrie before. At the time I advanced Tedder the second \$250.00 I had not then heard of this man Ragsdale. The first time that Tedder discussed Ragsdale with me I think was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, Tedder told me that Arthur Thurman, a lawyer here, had a preacher client of his, who claimed to know a great deal about the Frank case; that he had overheard some negroes talking in an alley way and one of them admitted the killing of a girl. In the pencil factory, and that they were willing to make an affidavit to that effect. I told him I would be very glad to get it. That was all that was said at that time that I can recollect. The next time, I think was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. Tedder called me up on the telephone and said, "Thurman is bringing those two men to your office, the preacher and another man, to make affidavits." I said, "All right have them bring them down." Thurman came into our office and said, "Mr. Lehon, this is Dr. Ragsdale and this is Mr. Barber" pointing to the man, "they desire to make affidavits in the Frank case". I said "All right" and Thurman withdrew. I asked Barber and Ragsdale to step into my private office and they were only seated a minute and I got my hat upon

the rack and said "Come on over to Mr. Rosser's office, the attorney's." I brought them to Mr. Rosser's office where they were first interrogated by Mr. Brandon, as Mr. Rosser was not present. It was during the noon hour. Later Mr. Rosser came and in my presence and in the presence of young Mr. Tifton, I think it is, the stenographer, and Ragsdale and Barber, their affidavit was taken by Mr. Rosser. They were not brought in by Mr. Thurman and Tedder, they were brought in by Mr. Thurman. Tedder called me up on the telephone and stated Mr. Thurman was coming to my office with those men. After Mr. Rosser had taken the affidavits of both Ragsdale and Barber and then asked them for the names of some of their associates or some reputable men here in Atlanta or elsewhere in the State of Georgia that could vouch for their good characters, and both Ragsdale and Barber furnished Mr. Rosser with a number of names, mostly of Atlanta citizens, and Mr. Rosser then furnished me with his list, and I immediately instructed our operatives, and went personally to some of them myself, and interviewed two gentlemen at least in regard to Ragsdale. They are connected with the State Mission Board here; one of them was a preacher named Page, and the other man was acting secretary of the State Mission Board, Bernard, I think his name is. I don't know whether Bernard is an auctioneer. He was acting secretary of the State Mission Board in the absence of J.J. Bennett, who was sick in the hospital and whose name Mr. Ragsdale had furnished us, I called at the State Mission Board for the purpose of interviewing J.J. Bennett and found that he was sick. That is the first time I made an investigation, that is the first time I knew Ragsdale and Barber's names. I think it was a day or two previous to when I actually got the affidavits that I obtained the information from Tedder that affidavit could be made. When I first mentioned the matter to the Governor about a preacher being in existence who knew something about this and when I mentioned he was in an alley-way he says, "No more of that alley business. We have run enough of that", and didn't take the thing seriously at all. I could not say exactly how long it was previous to the time that affidavit was actually executed that I and W.J. Burns had this talk, but it was only a few days. I don't think I communicated this matter immediately or directly to the Governor. The reason for the delay was because I didn't think it was very important myself. From the time Tedder first mentioned this matter to me until I got this affidavit, I only made one payment to Tedder; that was the day I employed him and that was an advance of a month's salary and \$250. for expense to go to look up those witnesses. I got the money from Herbert J. Haas on account of our services. To the best of my recollection it was by check. I am not able to say whether it was by check or by money. I have been paid cash by them and also been paid by check. I have been paid so often by cash, I can not recollect how often it was. I can not recollect how often I have been paid by check. I could not state of my own knowledge whether the check was signed by Herbert J. Haas individually or as treasurer. I paid very little attention to the check. I could not tell you what bank the checks were on. I turned them over to the local manager, Mr. Sears. I don't recollect endorsing any checks. I don't recollect any cash or check transaction at all at the immediate day the Ragsdale matter was on. We pay Boots Rogers on a per diem basis. We have no usual custom of paying our agents. It varies. I did not pay Tedder any money the day this affidavit was made. I do not know of his getting any money. Tedder was not in my office at any time that day previous to the money being paid. I do not and do not think he was at the office of Messrs. Haas. No, Ragsdale and Barber did not refuse or delay the execution of those affidavits. They were only anxious to make them and was wondering why the thing was being delayed so long when they were extremely anxious to make the affidavits. I met Arthur Thurman twice. Tedder told me he went to Birmingham, Nashville and Chattanooga. He made verbal reports. I did not make daily reports to the Governor or to any of the Burns Central offices. Several men who have been working on this case down here have received cash payments from [sic]. We pay nearly all of them in cash money. I don't know whether [sic] they are paid by check or not. Mr. Sears attends to matters of that kind. I have advanced several of the operatives expense money in cash and not by check. We usually take receipts and are filed in our office. I don't know anything about Jimmy Wrenn in connection with this case at all. I do not know him. I don't know anything about George Wrenn. I have not received reports from our men with reference to what they had done in this case.